

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

46th Year

CHICAGO, ILL., DEC. 13, 1906

No. 50



W. H. Laws.

Huber Laws.

Ben Laws.

M. H. Osman.

J. W. Taylor.

Hauling 200 Colonies of Bees on One Trip in Texas.



Apiary of P. W. Brey, of Ontario, Wls.
(See page 1014)

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American Bee Journal



PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
GEORGE W. YORK & COMPANY
334 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

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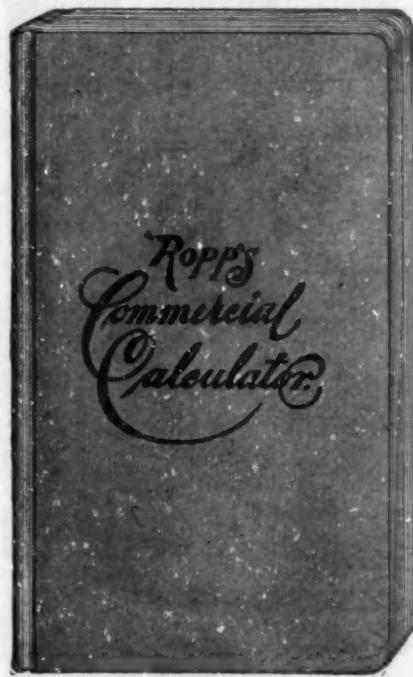
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 American Bee Journal


A. I. Root Co.
Medina Ohio.

Chicago, June 12th 06.

Gentlemen, I have just finished unpacking the last box of supplies and must say they are very satisfactory. The frames especially are extra fine, and I am just wondering how I was so foolish as buy the thousands I already have from that other firm. After seeing yours I have made up my mind that I would much rather buy yours than take theirs for a gift. This is no jolly but the simple truth.

Very truly yours
James Tough
1013. Clarence Ave
Oak Park
Ill.

Mr. Tough's letter is one of many we have on file.

The A. I. Root Company,
Manufacturers Bee-Keepers' Supplies MEDINA, OHIO

AMERICAN WEEKLY BEE JOURNAL

J. LANGSTROTH



(Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago as Second-Class Mail-Matter.)

Published Weekly at \$1.00 a Year, by George W. York & Co., 334 Dearborn Street.

GEORGE W. YORK, Editor

CHICAGO, ILL., DECEMBER 13, 1906

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them in Irrigation. He gives them the usual credit for good-nature, and also mentions among other things some not so generally known:

They are very prolific, keeping the hive well supplied with brood the season through, and stand confinement in cages better than any other race with which we are acquainted. On a test a virgin queen was kept in a queen-cage without bees for 30 days, and was quite vigorous at the end of that time. They will also mate and become good, useful queens long after other queens are either worthless or dead.

The brood-chamber is hardly ever supplied with stores, unless the giving of surplus room is neglected, so that there is during the season always a good supply of brood. They are not very much inclined to swarm, much less so than Carniolans, and if they do prepare for it they will not only start queen-cells by the dozen, but by the hundred, which are generously supplied with royal jelly. This makes them the ideal bee for the queen-breeder.

In honey-gathering qualities they do not come up to the best strains of Italians or Italian-hybrids. Nor is this to be expected in the start, as they are likely to improve in this direction by careful selection in breeding.

We have wintered these bees on the summer stands without any additional protection, just like the rest of our stock, and they appear to be entirely hardy.

Mr. Rauchfuss is quite hopeful as to results of judicious crossing, saying "our experiments of mating Caucasian queens to Italian drones have given us a very gentle bee, of fine working quality."

This report is of value as coming from so trustworthy a source after 6 years of quiet opportunity for observation.

Bees Mourn Their Keeper!

Several of our readers have kindly sent us a clipping taken from various newspapers, which shows the popular weakness for believing everything told about the wonderful things bees know and do. It is surprising what illuminated imaginations certain newspaper reporters possess. The clipping referred to reads as follows:

WALL LAKE, IOWA, Nov. 12.—Oliver J. Seers, a pioneer bee-man died suddenly. It has been his custom to move among his bees without covering his hands or face. The bees followed him about the house and yard. In the winter when their supplies ran low, he fed them sugar syrup and rye-flour. He covered their hives with blankets to keep out the

Editorial Notes and Comments

Advance Notice When Selling Honey

Sometimes a very little thing makes a big difference in one's success. Here's one of such little things, given in the Bee-Keepers' Review by Geo. H. Kirkpatrick, which may make no small difference in the number of sales; especially seeing that along rural routes men do not generally leave money with their wives when its need is not foreseen:

I give notice to the heads of families on a certain R. F. D. Route, 10 days previous to my canvass, by mailing a card that I've gotten out. On this card I give my occupation, when established, and post-office. One sentence reads:

"Sir:—I wish to inform you that I will canvass Rural Route No. [giving the number of route and date of the day or days I will make the canvass.]"

In this way I largely increase my sales, as the people are expecting me, and have saved a dollar with which to purchase a pail of honey. I am sure I make many more sales by giving the people notice of my coming, than I would were I to make the trip unexpectedly.

Preparing for Next Season

The winter days will soon be here, and also the long winter evenings. It will be the time to prepare for next season's work with the bees.

First, and foremost, is the reading of bee-books and bee-papers. He who is best informed these days, in any line of business, should not only be able to get the most out of his work in a financial way, but also enjoy his work most, besides being of the greatest service to those about him and to the world at large.

Perhaps you have read your bee-books before. Never mind, it will pay to go over them again very carefully. Perhaps there

never was a book written that could be digested at the first reading. Especially is this true of bee-books. And the same can be said of bee-papers. We have yet to see one that was not worth reading—that is, one worthy to be called a bee-paper.

During the hurry and heat of the summer one scarcely feels like reading very much. But the winter evenings are almost here, when, with the rest of the family gathered around a cozy fire, one can really enjoy reading, and get great profit out of it for future days. Doubtless many copies of the American Bee Journal were merely glanced over during the past 6 or 8 months. If so, the opportunity to read them thoroughly will soon be here. Look them up, and see the abundance of good things that were overlooked.

It may be true that with many the one just past was a poor honey season. But the next may be the best ever. Who knows? If it should be a good season, that bee-keeper who is best prepared to take greatest advantage of the honey-flow will be the most successful.

We know the inclination is to "let up" in one's efforts to do anything further when discouragements come. But the sun is not always kept from shining. Cloudy days are as useful as the sunshiny ones, and the latter are more appreciated by reason of the former.

The command that comes to each one of us these December days is to "Go forward!" Profiting by the experiences of the past we shall all be the better prepared to win success in the future—whether it is with bees or anything else.

Caucasian Bees in Colorado

Frank Rauchfuss imported 2 Caucasian queens in the summer of 1900, and tells about

American Bee Journal

cold. He never lost an opportunity to minister to their wants, and he believed the insects had a real attachment for him.

From the day of Seer's death there was unrest in the colony of bees. On the day of his funeral they swarmed about the hearse, and thousands followed it to the cemetery. The following day it was discovered that the hives were deserted. Several swarms of bees were found in the trees near the grave of their former owner. The others had mysteriously disappeared.

One of those who sent us a copy of the above, writes thus:

"Old-time bee-keepers claim that if a relative of a bee-keeper dies the bees will dwindle away, provided they are not moved at least one foot. I would like to hear from other bee-keepers if such is the case, and what is the reason therefor. The above clipping seems to prove it."

It will be noticed that the dispatch is dated Nov. 12, and if several swarms went to the cemetery anywhere near that date in Iowa, they must have had more affection than good

sense. It must have been a novelty to see bees swarming in November!

It is the old superstition over again, that bees visit the coffin of their care-taker, and doubtless the mistake was made of not "whispering to them the death of their owner!"

Some bees might be seen on a freshly varnished coffin, and so they might on a freshly varnished chair; but it would be all the same to them who occupied either. As to swarms leaving their hives to settle near the grave of their owner, some testimony would be needed to prevent one from thinking it pure invention.

Some newspapers that published the item headed it with these words: "Bees Mourn at Keeper's Bier." If they did, they must have had a little too much "beer."

The "most remarkable" thing in the case is that such rot should be allowed to find place in an ably conducted paper.

that time. Among them my house was burned, losing almost all the furniture, a comb foundation mill, a lot of comb foundation, 4000 pounds of honey, and all of my extracting combs. The bees had not been put into the cellar yet, so they were not burned. As I had no cellar of my own to put them into, I put them in my neighbor's cellar. It was a poor one for the bees, with no chance for ventilation, and the result was that I lost 60 colonies that winter.

I have generally kept from 100 to 200 colonies during the last 15 years. The picture was taken in August, 1904. That was a very good season for honey. I had 118 colonies, spring count, increased them to 176 colonies, and took 12,500 pounds of light extracted honey, being an average of about 106 pounds to the colony. Last year was a total failure; but this year I got 10,000 pounds of extracted honey.

P. W. BREY.

"The Bacteria of the Apiary, with Special Reference to Bee-Diseases," by Dr. G. F. White, Expert in Animal Bacteriology, Biochemic Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, is a bulletin just issued, and is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. It will be mailed for 10 cents, and all remittances should be mailed payable to him. Stamps, personal checks, or foreign money will not be accepted in any case. This bulletin is also known as "Technical Series, No. 14, of the Bureau of Entomology." It is undoubtedly the most exhaustive pamphlet on the subject ever issued in this country, and should be found in every bee-keeper's library.



The Chicago-Northwestern Convention was held last week. While the attendance was not as large as last year, the interest was good. It was, as usual, a question-box convention. A full report was taken in shorthand, which we expect to publish in due time. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, George W. York; Vice-President, Miss Emma M. Wilson, of Marenco, Ill.; and Secretary-Treasurer, Herman F. Moore, of Park Ridge, Ill.

A photograph was taken of the convention, which was very good indeed. Price, postage-paid, in mailing tube, 60 cents. Send orders to the office of the American Bee Journal, and we will see that the pictures are mailed.

The Recent National Election of officers for 1907 resulted as follows:

N. E. FRANCE, Platteville, Wis., General Manager National Bee-Keepers' Association.

Dear Sir:—We, the undersigned, have counted the votes cast for officers for the National Association for 1907, and the results are as follows:

Whole number of votes cast for President, 752, of which L. A. Aspinwall receives 403, M. A. Gill 340, and scattering 9 votes.

Whole number of votes cast for Vice-President 797, of which Geo. E. Hilton receives 315, E. W. Alexander 299, W. H. Laws 179, and scattering 4 votes.

Whole number of votes cast for Secretary 801, of which Jas. A. Green receives 436, George W. York 308, W. Z. Hutchinson 58, and scattering 3 votes.

Whole number of votes cast for General Manager 807, all of them being cast for N. E. France.

Whole number of votes cast for Directors 2283, of which G. M. Doolittle receives 620, Jas. A. Stone 515, R. A. Holekamp 449, Wm.

Russell 308, J. J. Cosby 248, E. E. Pressler 154, and scattering 6 votes.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Secretary.

LEONARD S. GRIGGS, Member.

MR. N. E. FRANCE, General Manager, National Bee-Keepers' Association—

Dear Sir:—As the result of the ballot for officers of the National Bee-Keepers' Association, as given above, I declare the following persons elected to serve for the year 1907, to-wit: L. A. Aspinwall as President, Geo. E. Hilton as Vice-President, Jas. A. Green as Secretary, N. E. France as General Manager, and G. M. Doolittle, Jas. A. Stone and R. A. Holekamp as Directors for the ensuing term.

R. L. TAYLOR,
Chairman of Directors.

Moving Bees in Texas.—The picture shown on the first page was secured recently, and represents quite a caravan of wagons loaded with bees—200 colonies, at one trip, near Beeville, Tex. Messrs. W. H. Laws and J. W. Taylor are both extensive honey-producers and queen-breeders. Their total apiaries aggregate over 1700 colonies, all located among the mesquite brush of Southern Texas.

The Apiary of P. W. Brey is shown on the first page of this week. When sending the photograph, on Nov. 26, Mr. B. wrote as follows:

There are 176 colonies in my apiary, although the photograph shows only 171, as there are 3 colonies cut off on the northeast corner and 2 on the southwest corner. The lady to the right in the picture is my wife. The next is my daughter and her little boy. The next is my niece and her baby boy. The older boys are my sons, Harry, Earl, and Edwin with his dog.

I have been keeping bees for about 20 years, and have had many ups and downs during

State Foul Brood Laws.—We have received, through Dr. E. F. Phillips, Acting in Charge of Apiculture, a copy of a reprint entitled, "State and Territorial Laws Relative to Foul Brood," issued by the Bureau of Entomology at Washington, D. C. Dr. Phillips says this reprint will be sent free to any persons requesting it, but the supply is rather limited, and therefore the Bureau of Entomology prefers to send it only to persons who really have some use for it. Of course, every inspector, and all others who are interested in securing State laws on bee-diseases, should have a copy of this compilation of all the laws, so as to be in possession of as much information as possible on the subject.

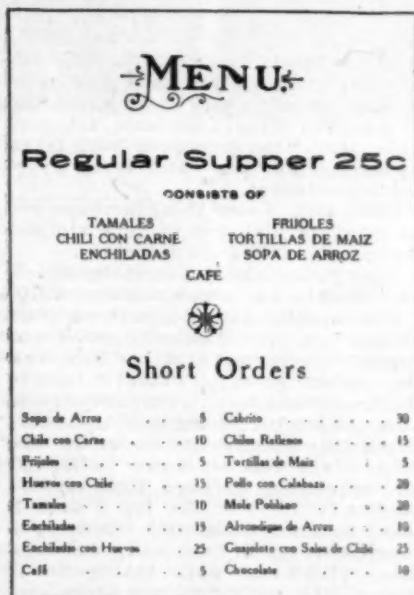
The Mexican Supper in San Antonio.—This, as previously announced, was fully equal to the warmest anticipations. About 4:30 p.m. of the second day of the convention (Friday), Mr. France, we think it was, arose and said that as the Texans wanted to give the bee-keepers a genuine Mexican supper at 6 o'clock, it would be necessary to adjourn soon in order to be on hand before the eatables "cooled off" too much.

The Secretary, just before adjourning, said that as we were in a strange land, among many strangers, and some of them treacherous Mexicans and long-horned Texans; and as we were soon to indulge in what might prove to be risky and somewhat serious, to the inner man at least; he wished to warn all to be prepared for the worst. He had just heard and seen fall on the floor from a Texas member's pocket, something that looked like a "concealed weapon." Of course, if such were the case, it might be well for all to go

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armed, in order to defend not only our beloved lady members, but ourselves as well. Whereupon, Mr. Laws stretched himself upward to his fullest length, and held aloft the aforesaid "concealed weapon," which proved to be only one of the large bive-scrapers which the G. B. Lewis Co. had given to each member as a souvenir. After this all hearts beat naturally again, and the Secretary resumed his usual meekness!

Finally, a little after 6 o'clock, all arrived at the original Mexican Restaurant, on Losoya Street, where, in the banquet hall on the second floor, were arranged two long tables, which were soon taken by the expectant bee-keepers, all eager to begin on—well, we think that none except the initiated knew what we were to begin on, and also end on, for only those who could read a little Spanish could tell what the several courses were, as they were selected from the following menu, which looks rather threatening to a "tenderfoot:"



After trying to slow away everything that was served by the Mexican waiters, the reader can imagine what a warmed-up crowd it must have been. Especially as the weather was also quite hot enough to be in keeping with the peppery dishes that were set before the confiding bee-keepers. But as finally the drinks (coffee) were reached, and sent down after the rest of the "hot stuff," Mr. Toepperwein arose and began his duties as toastmaster. He called on several persons to speak, although not previously notified in most instances, and so were quite unprepared. Besides, who could talk after "mouthing" so much that was red-and-cayenne peppery?

Pres. Dadant, the Frenchman, was the first to recover so that he could attempt to speak again. He said he felt as if he had been "eating bees with the stings left in." That expressed it exactly, and in a way that all the bee-keepers, at any rate, could clearly understand. For at least once in his life, Mr. Dadant had the fullest and warmest sympathy of his audience.

Another said that he could now better understand the real meaning of one of the popular songs of the North, entitled, "A Hot Time in the Old Town To-night." San Antonio was surely an "old town," and wasn't the "hot time" right then and there! This same speaker said he was sure his wife would ask him, on his return to the North, just what he had to eat at "that Mexican supper"—and that's what he'd like to know himself. Think of the humiliation that must have come to him when he faced his good wife again, and let her know that he had been indulging in such awful things as were mentioned on the menu of the Original Mexican Restaurant!

Mr. Putnam and several others were "too

full for utterance," or too warm, and so did not respond when called upon.

But space forbids giving any more details of this great, red-hot spread. It was certainly a novel affair, and will not be forgotten by all who were permitted to be present.

As a fitting close, all stood and sung "America" most heartily, after which the "procession" returned to the convention hall for the evening session.

San Antonio Photograph.—We have some of the San Antonio convention photographs, showing over 100 of those present at the National convention. We are sending them out in mailing-tubes at 60 cents each, postpaid. Send orders to the office of the American Bee Journal.



Hive-Making at Home—A Rejoinder

BY ALLEN LATHAM

Since Mr. Greiner, on page 963, has "all the argument, and at least nine-tenths of the bee-keepers" on his side, it may seem folly on my part to venture a reply to his arguments, backed as he is by such a host. But, like David of old, feeling that the right is with me, I shall see whether the brook between us will furnish a few smooth arguments for my ready sling; and I warn Mr. Greiner to keep well in, back of his shield-bearer, for I shall sling to hit.

Yet I do not count Mr. Greiner mine enemy, nor do I reckon nine-tenths of my brother bee-keepers to be Philistines. I trust to keep well within the bounds of friendly criticism, for I would not be outdone by Mr. G. in that respect. Moreover, I would have it understood that I heartily concur with Mr. G. in nearly all that he says. Looking at the matter from this point of view, and with the light on it as it shines for him, his arguments seem conclusive; but stand around and get a view with a brighter light, and you shall see the error which Mr. G. is laboring under.

First, does Mr. G. allow due credit to the average bee-keeper when he says that grief will follow the adoption of my suggestions in hive-making? Surely, I am in great error if I am wrong in thinking that the successful keeping of bees calls for a higher degree of intelligence than do most other pursuits. I draw from that belief on my part the conclusion that one who can not make his own hives (granting that he has time and inclination) successfully, will not succeed with bees in any sort of hive.

Mr. Greiner says of himself that,

though a mechanic of indefinite skill, he can not make good hives. I cheerfully grant to Mr. G. the privilege of standing as an exception to the rule enunciated in the preceding paragraph. My advice is not for him, nor for others like him, but for the thousands of lesser bee-keepers who are willing—nay, anxious—to make their own hives, and who only look for the simplest and cheapest method which will yield good results. Fully believing in the cheapness and ease of my own method, and in the resulting hive when the method is faithfully followed, I am eager to uphold it against every onslaught.

Mr. Greiner inveighs against the annoyance of pulling all sorts of boxes to pieces, and the general mix-up of lumber which will follow. No, Mr. G., I do not approve of trying to make a hive out of nothing, nor even out of any kind of cast-off box. I strongly advise a careful selection of boxes before even pulling them to pieces, for it would be folly to pull to pieces a miscellaneous lot of boxes and pile the heterogeneous boards together. Such procedure would be too much for even my patient putting. But by a careful selection of boxes, governed by the length, width, and thickness of boards, one can, if he will plan methodically, make hives easily and satisfactorily.

A cross-cut and a rip saw overcome the difficulty of length and width when such are not right, but thickness offers a real obstacle. In my article on page 74, I suggest a remedy which is easily applied. The use of narrow strips of building paper under boards which are too thin is a simple process quickly carried out. Is it possible (I am forced to ask myself at this point) that Mr. Greiner criticised my article after only a general and rather hasty reading, prompted to reply by a natural aversion to such advice? Surely, a careful



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reading would show that in more than one particular I have expressly met the difficulties which Mr. G. brings up in his arguments.

What canons of architecture apply to hive-making I do not know. I remember that our good Prof. Norton, at Harvard, used to say that architectural forms should subserve the use to which the completed whole was to be put. Those are not his words, but they convey the idea. Possibly we might place efficiency as the rule which one could apply to the architecture of bee-hives. If a hive meets this most important of all requirements, then just so far is it beautiful.

Mr. Greiner's statement about photographs of apiaries, once more opens to me the opportunity to disclaim against the prevailing notion that hives must tilt forward, also the notion that there is no cover but must be held down by a clumsy stone. Let Mr. G. select two other judges, and then let the three pass judgment upon the photographs which have adorned (?) the front cover of the American Bee Journal during the year 1906. The cover of Jan 25th number shows part of my own home apiary, taken from an elevation so as to bring into view more hives. Hives are perfectly upright, covers stay on of themselves, and hives are as much alike as any other twins. The hives may not be as geometrically exact individually as a lot of dovetailed hives, but collectively they are *all right*. Mr. Greiner, the appearance of an apiary does not so much depend upon the individual hive as it does upon the orderly arrangement of the hives, and upon the absence of unnecessary clutter.

I emphatically deny that I have underestimated the need of uniformity in bee-fixtures. I assume, and I think rightly, that an intelligent bee-keeper can make his own hives and have them uniform. I wish to say that I approve of Mr. Greiner's argument about uniform covers, and reject with scorn the implication that my lips would say: "Pretty small affair," etc. Does Mr. G. think that the covers on the 50 home-made hives in my back-yard can not be manipulated as he describes? Mr. Greiner's allusion to covers was most unfortunate, for every one knows that no part of the factory-made hive has given more trouble than the cover; though it might truly be said that the cover is hard-pressed by certain other parts in the race for infamy. Even though an apiarist buys all his hives, it would pay him well to make covers such as I describe in the article under discussion, to use in conjunction with the cover which comes with his hives. It needs scarcely be said that this could be done only with the flat cover.

Is it true that factory-made hives are so very exact? I have put together hives sent out by two of the foremost firms in the country, each of which firms claims for its goods perfect workmanship. Well, Mr. Greiner, and my other readers, I have never found the exactness which the article on page 963 claims for such goods. Two causes bring about this inexactness:

In the first place, a machine will not do any better work than it is set to do, and a human being adjusts the ma-

chine. Moreover, most parts of the bee-hive, though got out by machinery, are more or less subject to the muscular action and the eyesight of the man running the machine. Hence, many parts are not exact.

In the second place, rarely is the lumber used by supply manufacturers uniformly seasoned, nor of uniform texture. Yet all goes through the same mill. Result is a shrinking of this part, and a warping of that, and when the parts are assembled, and the hive nailed together, the finished job is not good. Talk about 1-32 of an inch! I have seen parts of hives put out by these firms which fell 3-16 of an inch away from accuracy. In my self-made hive I am not satisfied with results less accurate than the best work turned out by the manufacturers.

Permit me to enumerate the points in a hive where accurate uniformity is essential:

(a). Hive-bodies must be such that one will fit another when placed upon it. My directions meet that requirement.

(b). Inside length must be such that proper bee-space is left at end of frames. My hive meets that requirement.

(c). Width inside should be determined and adhered to. My hive admits of that. Factory hive is still on the fence of uncertainty.

(d). Depth inside should be such as to allow proper space below frames. Here again my hive surpasses the factory-made hive. With the double wall of my home-made hive, the boards being put in with grains of the two walls crossing, there is no change of depth brought about by shrinking or swelling. Can this be said of the usual factory-made hive?

(e). There must be a bee-space between the super of sections and the frames below. As I recommend an outer upper story with thin section-case inside, it will be seen that the last-mentioned bee-space will not be dependent upon the structural accuracy of the hive, but of the super or of the honey-board. My own section-super has a bee-space below the slats—the proper way, I think.

(f). Covers should be made to stay on, to shed rain, and to be interchangeable. My telescope cover, as described, meets all those requirements. I have absolutely no use for a cover which depends upon bee-glue to make it tight, upon a stone to keep it in place, and upon chance to shed rain. "Don't, don't," my friends, let Mr. Greiner encourage you to further toleration of such a nuisance.

In closing his argument Mr. G. mentions the matter of saving of time through easy manipulation. I am with him here, heart and soul, and would "go him one better." Not only should we make manipulation easier, but we ought to do away with about three-fourths of even this easy manipulation. Let the bees alone more.

Heretofore I have largely devoted my attention to meeting and contorting what Mr. Greiner says. I should like a little more space to emphasize what Mr. G. says nothing about.

The hive which I have described,

judged from what it does and the requirements it meets, is better than any factory-made hive now on the market. The paper covering, the double wall, the splendid cover, the slanting bottom, the warm super, etc., put it ahead of all hives judged solely from a utilitarian standpoint. No supply-dealer would get out such a hive to sell at a price within the reach of most of us. That hive made of new lumber, etc., could not, judging by catalog prices of other hives, sell for less than \$4 or \$5.

Let no one who can not use a square, who can not saw to a line, who can not nail two boards together with edges flush, attempt to make his own hives. But let those who can do all those things make hives according to my directions, and he will live to bless the American Bee Journal for publishing that article on page 74.

Bee-Keepers' Wheelbarrow—Shaking Bees Off Combs

BY R. M. M' MURDO

In Gleanings for Oct. 1, Mr. William Lossing describes an automatic cover to attach to a "Daisy" wheelbarrow. It is a good thing, I am sure, for, just as he says, "the canvas or sack takes up double the time," and is an everlasting nuisance.

Here, also, is something (perhaps not as good as his), but is very simple, works well, and is not patented:

First extend the bottom of the wheelbarrow so it will accommodate two 10-frame supers; nail a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch strip all around this so that the edges of the super will rest on it exactly. Now wax the bottom so as to make it honey-tight. Make a hole in the lowest part, and attach a tin of some kind underneath the wheelbarrow to catch the drip. Have this so it can be moved and emptied, or arrange some kind of stopper for it. For the top I used 2 escape-boards with the bee-escapes covered, a $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ inch strip between these, with 2 slim nails that go down through the middle of the strip and between the supers, and hold it in place. Now get 2 good pieces of leather and hinge the tops to this strip so that they both open towards each other. Line the underneath side of these tops with some kind of felt. With this I can carry 4 supers if I like. And when I get in the honey-house I can lift the top clean off, or open one side at a time.

I would like to ask the supply-dealers why they do not have a wheelbarrow made especially for the apiarist. The "Daisy" is a very nice, handy tool; but I should think one with a bottom large enough to accommodate two 10-frame supers, with the front board coming up at right angles to the bottom, and a wheel a little bit larger so that it would stand level, would be an improvement, and still just as useful for other things.

SHAKING BEES OFF HONEY-FRAMES.

Permit me to say a few words in regard to shaking bees off frames of honey. I have shaken a good many, and tried all the different grips advanced in the bee-papers—some with sad disaster. An 8-pound frame has to

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be handled slightly carefully. I find taking them out by the projectors the most convenient way, and, when shaking, I relieve all the strain possible off the projections by pressing against the side-bars. I put the staples at the bottom of the frame, so they are out of the way, and I find it works to perfection. And in nailing up the frame I put an extra nail down through the top. The new metal-spacer that fits over the top of the frame must add greatly to the strength of the projections; but for extracting I would not have any metal about the frame.

The great advantage of the Hoffman frame (which we can not appreciate until we come to extract) is the wooden

self-spacing device. It has no use in the super, it is true, but very essential below to keep the frames in order, in case any of the upper frames have been fastened down to them with wax, which sometimes happens. But what I am trying to get at, is the secure grip that these spacers give you on a full frame, when lifting it into the extractor, and for the knife to stop against, instead of against one's hand, and getting a cut, which happened to me occasionally with the other frames.

I think the Hoffman frames are all right except for the wedge system, which I would not have in mine if I could help it.

Canto, Cuba, Nov. 7.



The "Old Reliable" as seen through New and Unreliable Glasses,
By E. E. HASTY, Sta. B. Rural, Toledo, Ohio.

KEEPING QUEENS.

If I understand W. H. Laws, on page 829, his best way to keep queens 21 days is practically a small nucleus with no entrance. Reasonable plan. His bad experience is capable of being overrated. The colony would have fed about as many, probably, and starved but few, had they been given but 15 or 20 instead of the 40 he overwhelmed them with.

"INDEPENDENT MOVEMENTS."

Independent Movement, eh? Well, independence is a good thing. We seldom have too much of it. Still, there might be independence of the old despot (real or imaginary), and, at the same time, slavish submission to a new one—especially if you went into the new one's warmth and shelter, and ceded him power to kick you out in the cold just when outside temperatures ranged very low.

That's not what I would say if I were just talking to a friend instead of writing. Just listen at the wireless telephone and see if you can't hear me talk. The American Bee Journal, and Gleanings, and Review, with their editors, and Dr. Miller, and Mr. Doolittle, are pretty prominent. They are hardly to blame for being so. I fear that the envy of less prominent papers and folks counts too much in some directions—starts needless moves, and hinders useful ones. For all that, my weeping spells are quite short when I think of the society organized to advertise honey, and how the independence of the brethren "busted" it. Page 829.

CORK CHIPS FOR BEE-FLOATS.

Glad to hear that cork chips for bee-floats have triumphantly stood the test of a season's use under the eyes of Sister Wilson. Page 832.

TEMPERATURE OF A BEE'S THORAX— KEEPING DEALERS OUT.

I wonder. How ever, Mr. Getaz, did they find out that the temperature of the bee's thorax is always a little higher than that of the abdomen? I suppose chemical action develops heat, and also that the point where force is developed is a point where heat appears—so that the heart is also a furnace. In the bee the circulatory organs most resembling the heart might be expected to furnish heat. But are those organs very much more in the thorax than they are in the abdomen? And heat arising from chemical action, I should expect more of that to be in the abdomen than in the thorax. So I'll say, Eat one grain of salt with this, lest it prove another of those mistaken must-be-so's that occasionally afflict us. There! I forgot that heat from the muscular force of flying could not readily get into the abdomen.

As to keeping the dealers out of apicultural societies, I'll agree with Mr. Getaz, *theoretically*. But, practically, and so far as we have gone, would we have had any societies worth mentioning if the dealers had all been kept out?

CELLS FOR SUPERSEDING OR FOR SWARMING?

Guess Mr. Taylor, on page 839, is right, that you can get an *inkling* of whether bees are building cells with intent to supersede or with intent to swarm. Cells for the former purpose usually all in one batch, for the latter purpose in several successive batches. Also fewer in the former case, more in the latter. I suspect, however, that the swarm preparations of some one excellent colony may be with very few cells—fewer than the superseding preparations of some other colony.

TRAVELING BY FLYING MACHINE.

So traveling by flying machine affords too little opportunity for enquiring the way. 'Spects that must be so—and it's bad, sure. Got to keep going at a high rate of speed, and it's not comfortable to be in total darkness as to the wheres and the whithers. And Baron Lieawful has given us this time the most delicate and bubbling-over-with-fun piece of aparian humor that has appeared for a long time. Page 835.

HONEY-VINEGAR MAKING.

Aldehyde, an intermediate substance between alcohol and vinegar. Sadly fear that most people don't know there is such a substance. Very volatile, and liable all to get away, ruining the strength of the vinegar you are trying to make. So the vinegar-maker has to work in two opposite directions at once—expose to oxygen the most possible, and expose to evaporation the least possible. And if you have any notion of vinegar-making, be sure you read the paper of H. M. Arnd, on page 838. One doesn't find such practical and minute directions every day.

HIVE ON BOTTLES TO CIRCUMVENT MOLES.

That everlasting nuisance—the mole! Although he won't let a hive stay level on 4 bricks, I think the scheme of setting a hive on 4 long bottles, deeply set, pretty nearly defeats him. Page 839.

CITY MATING OF QUEENS.

Mr. Abbott's experience at mating queens deserves more than a passing notice. In the city (St. Joseph) nearly all queens mated with their own stock. In the country, 2 miles out, nearly all mated with some other stock. Buildings and other conditions of a city would seem to shorten very much the flights of queens and drones. Worth while for some one to experiment on this in some other city. Page 839.

SHIPPING COMB HONEY.

And the regulation, always-to-be-given old direction to ship comb honey glassed and visible, now finds no one to stand up for it. Now it's ship it packaged just right for two men to carry—always avoiding most decidedly any package which one man can pick up and throw. Page 845.

WHY BEES DO BETTER.

If not brand new it's certainly not worn out—the problem why bees moved a few miles about fruit-bloom time always do better than just such ones on the ground, and consequently not given any wagon-bouncing? First answer would naturally be, "It's a mistake—mere casual and accidental circumstance." Too many, and too weighty, bee-men vouch for it as a fact to get out of it that way. Best answer seems to be that keeping them excited and stuffed with honey for some hours causes a greatly increased amount of brood to be started; and that just at that time more brood proves to be very profitable to the colony. I'll add one more solution to those given on page 844: It's imaginable that unmoved colonies incline to

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get into a rut as to the territory they visit—fail to prospect as far as they might, and neglect (possibly) some territory near by, just because never in the habit of going there. Bees set

down in a totally strange location of course do a big job of prospecting immediately—may get familiar, and keep familiar, with more and better fields than the others do.



Conducted by EMMA M. WILSON, Marengo, Ill.

Feeding Pollen Substitutes in a Barrel

Here is something of interest to the sisters who feed the bees some substitute for pollen in the spring. Mrs. A. L. Amos says in *Gleanings in Bee Culture*:

"Apropos of this meal-feeding, I think I have struck quite an improvement on the shallow pan usually recommended. There are objections to that here. We are seldom without a good, stiff breeze that can blow the meal, if not the pan, and the place is overrun with these alert foragers, the White Leghorn chickens, which are good at finding meal-pans; so this spring I feed in the bottom of a salt-barrel. I feed corn-meal and flour, and the bees have used a lot of it. The same meal does quite a while. I sift flour over the top, and stir lightly. I leave the barrel out, simply turning a galvanized tub over it at night or during rain. It has been eminently satisfactory to me and the bees."

"The Top of a Section"

The following paragraph is taken from the British Bee Journal:

"I have always been accustomed to see sections," says J. A. Green, "with the lock-corner down, and it came as a distinct surprise to me when another bee-keeper asked me, in sober earnest, why I put my sections in the supers upside down. It seemed he had been always accustomed to the other way."

Well, that is just my experience, too. I think placing sections with the lock-corner up is the correct plan. I don't know if I have any other than a woman's reason: "I think it so, because I think it so;" but I certainly look on it as the natural position. I wonder if others here take a contrary view.

This was written by Mr. D. M. Macdonald, and as he hails from Scotland, it may not be the easiest thing in the world to convince him of the error of his views. The present writer, however, having just as much Scotch blood as Mr. Macdonald, and withal being a woman, has just as good right as he to give a woman's reason when stubbornly insisting that the lock-corner should be down. In this case, however, a woman's prerogative to insist upon a thing without giving any reason will not be insisted upon.

In the first place, the lock-corner is more easily pulled apart than the other corners. As there is more danger of the top-bar being pulled apart than the bottom-bar, it is desirable to have the

weakest corner at the bottom. The lock-corner is more likely to be daubed with propolis, and should be kept more out of sight.

Sometimes it happens that the lock-joints do not make a perfect fit, and are inclined to spring apart. If such a lock-corner be at the top there is nothing to hold the top-bar down, but if it be at the bottom, the pressure of the side parts will hold it down, and when filled it will be all right.

Lastly, and in the eyes of a woman the most important thing, a section does not look so well with lock-corner up. Mr. Macdonald may insist that this is a matter of taste, and that to him the lock-corner looks better than the solid corner. In that case he should have the top-piece sections so as to have both upper corners locked, for a section with one of its upper corners locked, and the other plain, looks too much like a woman with her hat on crooked.

In a later number of the British Bee Journal, L. S. C. gives as a reason for placing the lock-joint at the top, that "the comb is better attached to the upper sides, and there is less risk of its parting company." In this locality we don't have any trouble of that kind, for we use bottom starters, making the comb well attached to the bottom-bar.

Bees and Red-Pepper

TO THE EDITOR:—

Can you explain the following?

Yours very truly,

EDWARD F. BIGELOW.

DEAR ST. NICHOLAS:—There are a great many dogs around my home that dig up the flower-beds. To prevent their doing this, mother sprinkled red-pepper over the places where the seeds were planted. She did it in the morning, and when I returned from school at half past three the ground where the pepper lay was covered with honey-bees. It was early in the spring, and I had not then seen any bees around. I should like to know why the bees came after the pepper.

ALICE P. GARWOOD.

Women being mostly interested in the case, the foregoing letters have found their way into the Sisters' corner. It is no wonder that a woman bright enough to think of sowing cayenne pepper to keep dogs from digging up the ground should be inquisitive as to

the presence of bees where dogs would not want to come.

The first thought likely to occur is that something sweet, perhaps rinsings of a molasses jug or something of the kind, had been thrown upon the ground; yet people don't generally throw slops where seeds are sown. There is, however, no impossibility in the case, but consultation with one who has some knowledge of bees and their ways suggests another explanation.

It will be noted that it was early in spring, and these were the first bees seen around. When bees first fly in spring, one of the places they are likely to be seen is upon the sawdust at a wood-pile, busily digging away at it and seeming to make it take the place of pollen. They also have been known to work upon fine coal-dust, and perhaps other material that one would hardly think could take the place of pollen. Is there anything impossible about their using the fine pepper-dust the same way? Has any one a better explanation?

Pacific Coast Murmurings

"GROVES" OF SWEET CLOVER.

So Kate Douglass Wiggins has been soaring into airy fancies about bees! I wonder if she would know a bee if she should see one. Perhaps little "Patsy" could tell her. As I never fancied the irrepressible lady-writer from the Pacific Coast metropolis, I never lost any time or sleep perusing her stories. Thanks, however, to Miss Emma Wilson for calling attention to the sentence from one of the former's recent fictions (page 785). Miss Wilson is charmed with *our* Kate's "mellifluous sentence." But, please excuse me, I am not so well pleased. Perhaps it is because Kate is not one of my sisters.

Let me quote a portion of the sentence in question: "Back of the barn was a grove of sweet clover whose white feathery tips," etc. That's sufficient, for if there were more of the same stuff I should surely have a fit of that "tired feeling." Who ever saw a grove of sweet clover? But, by Jingo, wouldn't it be immense if sweet clover grew in great, gigantic groves like the big trees of Mariposa, in California, and their "feathery, flowery tips" flowed nectar as full and freely as a fire-plug after freezing weather was past and gone! Joy would be the lot of the bees, as the mellifluous mess came tripping to their honey-receptacles. But gladder still would be the heart of the bee-man as the hives would overflow with the abundance of forest-grown clover nectar. Just think of it, I say, *groves* of sweet clover honey, and it coming in so fast that buckets and tanks could not hold it! Our dear old friend, "Uncle Novice," to mix his name a little, in his halcyon days, never dreamed of such flows from the basswood and buckwheat sources of supply, as would come from the

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aforesaid "feathery tips" of a hundred-acre grove of sweet clover. The thought is a feathery one, indeed, and gives us a fanciful flight of bee-misinformation.

Oh, Mrs. Wiggins, I did not think that a former San Francisco girl, one reared in the great land of milk and honey, would make such a bee-bull as you did in this one sentence. Perhaps you tried to write too mellifluously. Try mixing a little honey with your ink the next time you tackle things bee-cultural.

And, further in the same sentence, you mention "banks of aromatic mint and thyme." What a fine soothing syrup the things mentioned in this one sentence would have made for poor, dear little "Patsy." I'm fainting. Pass me the smelling salts, please. Now, don't say I'm womanly, for I'm not.

PEPPERY HONEY.

Mustard honey may be good for a backache, but I doubt if it will touch the spot if it is secured via the nectar-glands of flower and bee. Honey and mustard mixed is pretty hot stuff, and may be eaten with some degree of safety in small quantities with sugar-cured ham. In California large fields of mustard are grown for the spice-mills, and merry is the hum of the bee on the golden heads of bloom. It is a good early honey-plant, but the nectar is not so peppery as one would imagine, at least such is my experience. The native mustard, and a species of rape, are among the earliest flowers to bloom in the Golden State—these are out in December and January, and the fields are just yellow with them in February.

OVER-SHADED BEES.

"Too much of a good thing" is bad for man and beast, and insect, too. In a hot climate, as is to be found in some portions of California, it is advisable to provide shade for the bees, that the hot rays of the sun won't injure the comb and bees within the hives, and shade may be secured by other means, such as sheds, hedges, fences, wide hive-covers, or by placing the colonies under the protecting branches of trees. Recently I discovered a bad case of too much shade of the latter sort. It was at the University of California, in Berkeley. At the end of Telegraph Avenue—the main street connecting the Varsity town with Oakland, 5 miles distant—is a nice, romantic bridge crossing Strawberry Creek, the southern boundary of the college grounds; and just as one sets his foot on the bridge, if he looks closely among the trees to the left, or the Golden Gate side, he will notice a small apiary down on the ground beneath the trees and close to the creek's edge, where the hum of the bees play a low accompaniment to the murmur of the brook below. But the shade of the oaks, bay-trees, and black "pottishmums" is far too dense, so much so that the bees find it hard to make their way to the hives, and, verily, sometimes we have to believe that the learned professor does not know everything. Just let in a little more sun, professor, to gladden the poor bees. How would you like to be kept in a cellar?



Conducted by LOUIS H. SCHOLL, New Braunfels, Tex.

Don't Become Discouraged

There is much good and truthful advice in the following, clipped from the Dallas News, that I give it here, and for the reason many persons who would otherwise suffer by disposing of their bees only because a bad or an off year kept them from giving paying returns. Instead, it would pay to feed if the bees need it, for we know of many instances where only a few dollars' worth of sugar made into syrup and fed to keep the bees over, resulted in large crops of hundreds of dollars the next season. Just as Mr. Smith says, it is an old saying with the Texans, that "three bad years never follow in succession."

It has been an unusually hard year on bees almost throughout the State of Texas, and many of the less enthusiastic bee-keepers have given up the business in disgust, saying, "There is no money in bees, and it doesn't pay to fool with them." A good many are offering to dispose of their bees and fixtures at a sacrifice. This, my friend, is not good business judgment. Stick to your bees, and feed them if necessary this fall to carry them through the winter. Remember, we seldom ever have two short crops of anything in succession in this grand old State of Texas, and the very next year is almost sure to be a bountiful year for honey and bees.

So let us not become discouraged at our short crop of honey and dispose of our little faithful pets and workers at a sacrifice. I believe it was Josh Billings who said in giving good advice to his son, Remember the postage stamp, my son, and stick to one thing until you get there. Many of us have only very light honey crops this year, but the quality is good, and it is no trouble to find a ready market for it. So perhaps the poor season for bees will have a tendency to weed out the poorer grade of bees as well as the happy-go-as-you-please kind of bee-keepers that give their bees little or no attention, and may prove a blessing in disguise after all. It will give us a chance to select our best colonies to breed from, and this is very important with bees the same as with poultry or any other domestic stock.

Bees are unlike our other stock. We breed bees only for one purpose, or at least we should breed them for only one purpose, that of gathering honey. So in selecting our breeding stock we should select those that come up with the heaviest and fullest supers of honey. No difference what kind of bees we have, if we will continue to breed from the best and follow this up year after year, we will surely make a big improvement over our present stock and ways of breeding.

Don't misunderstand me now as trying to teach you that there is no difference in the different races of bees, for that is not what I am trying to teach you, for I know there is as much difference in pure Italian bees and our little native or black bees, when it comes to gathering honey, as there is in any of our fine stock of horses, cattle and hogs over the common scrub of long ago. What I was trying

to teach you is this: If you will not stock your bee-yards with fine bees, then improve the bees you have, as suggested above, for the best is none too good for us who believe in improved stock.

L. B. SMITH.

Rescue, Tex.

Is Bee-Keeping Moving Toward the South?

At this time of the year there are usually many inquiries from bee-keepers in different sections, who are contemplating changing locations, and many of these inquiries come from the North. Surely, bee-keeping is moving toward the South.

There are some seekers who move into a new section, and, not knowing anything about the honey-flora, will locate where there are but few honey-plants, and even if there is abundance, it may yield inferior honey. The question is, How should bee-keepers locate? By correspondence with some reliable bee-keeper already located in the desired section. But the inquiry is often returned with the statement, "If you are doing anything, you would better stay where you are." In some instances there may have been some good reasons for a reply like this, but there have been too many such replies for the good of our industry in some sections here in the South. There are many good, honest bee-keepers who have sufficiently tried their locations, and they would not justify the spreading of the business to the extent of a livelihood. We are glad of the possibilities of our industry, and those who desire to pursue it can find locations which will warrant a living, if intelligently pursued.

Inquiries from bee-keepers desiring locations in the Southeast, for the last two seasons, have been many. The possibilities of bee-keeping in the Southwest have been better known to the bee-keeping world in the last few years than in the Southeast. Therefore the bee-keepers have located there mostly, and made it a great bee and honey country. But what of us? We have been prospecting from place to place and waiting for the great pine forests to be lumbered and our section made better for the bee-industry. This has been done, and it has begun to boom, and the prospects are all that could be expected.

Now about locations. The idea seems to prevail to locate along large streams or in or near a very dense swamp of miles square. It is a fact that our best honey-plant is found on high land or

American Bee Journal

along branches and creeks. Also a person's health is better on higher sections. An ideal location is around or near a small town which will consume several tons of honey, and in which the apiarist can live, give his children the best educational advantages, and bring them up in good society and yet live among his bees. There are many locations.

The writer has such a location and is well satisfied.

In conclusion, let me say that I have not written this to boom bee-keeping here, but to answer inquiries which have and will come to my desk before next season; also to throw some light on apiculture in the Southeast.

Crisp Co., Ga. J. J. WILDER.



Send Questions either to the office of the American Bee Journal, or to
DR. C. C. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.
Dr. Miller does not answer Questions by mail.

Little T-Super Sticks

1. I believe the T-super is a good, handy super when once getting it correctly made. What are those little $\frac{1}{4} \times 3-32$ sticks that you speak of on page 783? I do not understand these figures, and what the sticks are for, unless they are used to fill the space between the sections that the T-tins form.

2. Do the supply-dealers make these sticks? WISCONSIN.

ANSWER.—You are right in your supposition. There is extra space in the length of the super, and for two reasons. One is that a little space is made between the sections by the T-tins. Another is that it would be exceedingly difficult to get the sections into the super if they were a tight fit. The little sticks fill up the vacant space. Sometimes only 2 are needed, and sometimes 3. You can get along without them, but the bees will fill glue in the empty spaces, and, besides, the sections are more true and square if wedged up. Probably any manufacturer of supplies would make them.

Wintering One Colony Above Another

I am a beginner and have 2 colonies here at the house. One became queenless after swarming. I introduced a new queen successfully, but left the colony weak. The other colony, a strong, heavy one, carried its dead queen out on the alighting-board, Nov. 20. I put the colony on top of the weak one, with a paper between in which I cut a hole big enough for one bee to pass through. The first and second day they were aroused quite a little; that is, the queenless colony, but now they are quiet. They did not arouse the lower, weak colony. I have them packed in a big box. Can I leave them standing on top of each other till spring, or how else will I have to treat them? The lower box has only 6 frames. What is to be done in spring with them? I had the queen in a warm room and she still showed a faint sign of life 2 days after they carried her out. She was a queen reared by the bees after swarming.

INDIANA.

ANSWER.—Probably it will be all right to leave them just as they are, for most likely there is no queen in the upper hive, and as soon as the weather gets warm enough the bees will unite at their leisure without any interference on your part. I said most likely there is no queen in the upper hive, for there is a bare possibility that when the queen was carried out, Nov. 20, that the bees had superseded her and had a younger laying queen in the hive. So as soon as the bees get to flying

in the spring and start brood-rearing, it will be well to see whether there is brood in each story. If so, then you will separate the two hives so as to save both queens, or at least put a queen-excluder between the two stories till you do separate them.

Taking In Outside-Wintered Bees to Look After Them

In wintering bees outside and noticing a certain colony acting so very differently than the rest as to demand prompt attention, it being one of my best colonies during the summer; also the weather being so cold outside as to make it unwise to open it on the stand, and with no prospect of a day warm enough for the purpose, what harm would there be in taking the colony into a room in the house now, or say at any other time during the winter, and looking after it? Will the bees settle down in the hive again by nightfall so that I can place them on their stand again?

NEW YORK.

ANSWER.—By taking sufficient pains you can take a hive of bees into a warm room at any time in the winter and open the hive. The trouble is that the light and heat will stir the bees up so that they will fly out of the hive and settle elsewhere, especially on the window. There will be less of this if the hive be opened about dusk, for you can see in the evening when it is too dark for the bees to see; and if handled very gently at this time of day they will be little inclined to fly out. Then if the room be allowed to cool off, the bees will be all quiet before morning. If any have gone to the window, they can be got back by means of two pieces of shingle or pasteboard.

Please understand, however, that it is not in general advisable to open a hive in a warm room in winter. You can hardly do it without stirring up the bees more than is good for them. Just now I don't think of any reason there would be for it unless the bees should be short of food; and it is not necessary in that case. If anything else is wrong, it will probably be better to let the bees alone till a warm day in spring. Still, as already intimated, the bees can probably stand it to have their hive opened if you can't wait.

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New York.—A series of Bee-Keepers' Institutes will be held in New York State as follows: Amsterdam, Dec. 10; Syracuse, Dec. 11; Fulton, Dec. 12; Gouverneur, Dec. 13, 14; Auburn, Dec. 15; Romulus, Dec. 17; Genoa, Dec. 18, 19—State Convention. Mr. Chas. Stewart, of Sammonsburg, N. Y., has been engaged as Institute Speaker. Mr. Stewart is one of the State Bee-Inspectors, and has shown a great interest in the welfare of the bee-keepers of the State.

Romulus, N. Y. C. B. HOWARD, Sec.

Michigan.—The Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Association will meet at Big Rapids, Dec. 25 and 26, 1906, the meeting opening on the evening of the 25th and continuing through the next evening. We are working to make it the best attended convention we ever had. Low rates on the railroads.

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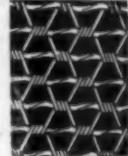
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